

Sinclair Broadcasting uses public resources (airwaves) without paying money. They are allowed this free essential service provided by the American public at large only if they follow the laws of the land in general and the more specific guidelines that govern broadcasting. Under these laws they have a duty to inform the American Public. Forcing local stations to run an extremely controversial and derogatory piece on a law-abiding citizen (and presidential candidate) clearly violates their duty as a broadcaster. This is not only upsetting in the larger sense of the ominous powers now held by a few through consolidation of the media but is distressing on a local level. Local employees who are working for an outlet of Sinclair hold many different beliefs. The journalists among them do their best to uphold their own personal journalistic integrity. It is simply wrong for Sinclair to not only willfully ignore its duty to the public, but to air the anti-Kerry special will also force local journalists to be a part of sullying their own integrity.

I want to see the local journalists I trust talking about issues that affect us all in a fair and even-handed manner. It is the broadcaster's duty (bound by the gift of free airwaves) to take the needs of our large and sprawling democracy seriously, and, when necessary, to subjugate its own interests to that of the public. Well, I am part of the public and I am telling you that this is one of those times! As a citizen of this country I have a stake in how the media works. Bush said we had to overthrow Saddam's regime because he would not follow guidelines put forth by the UN. If Sinclair cannot follow simple rules of the FCC that it has agreed to follow then at the very least its license must not be renewed. Thank you for taking the time to act on this citizen's behalf.